

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/616,266

Examiner

Tawfik Goma

Applicant(s)

IKAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 3/17/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-4 are allowed over the prior art of record because the prior art of record including closes US Patents Shibata (US 5657172) and Wakabayashi et al (US 5905255) considered individually or in combination fail to disclose or fairly teach an objective lens driving device with two focusing coils including the combination of a first yoke and a second yoke holding first and second magnets disposed within the coils and a bridge yoke for connecting the first and second yokes.

Shibata discloses a bridge yoke (36) that connects a yoke that is within a single focusing coil and a yoke that is outside of the coil in order reduce magnetic flux leakage. The reference cannot be combined with applicant's admitted prior art for the reasons provided in applicant's arguments filed 3/17/2006. The reasons include that by combining the references the problems discussed on page 9 lines 37 and page 10 lines 1-15 of the specification would occur; including 1) decreasing range of movement of the objective lens in a focusing direction, 2) increasing thickness of the driving apparatus, and 3) hampering the driving of the device in the tracking direction.

Wakabayashi et al discloses an objective lens driving apparatus that includes two focusing coils and two yokes for holding first and second magnets disposed within the focusing coils (fig. 16), which is capable of moving a tilting direction. Wakabayashi fails to disclose a yoke bridge connecting the first and second yokes as recited in claim 1.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ohno (US 2002/0071189) discloses an objective lens actuating device with a focusing coil that is around a first and second yoke with first and second magnets attached used to drive the device in a focusing direction. Ezawa (US 5706272) discloses an optical driving mechanism with two focusing and coils wherein the yokes within the coils are connected to the yokes outside of the coils via a yoke bridge.

Contact Information


Please note that art unit 2653 is now workgroup 2627.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tawfik Goma whose telephone number is (571) 272-4206. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2627

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



T. Goma
5/17/2006



THANG V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER